

Remarks

Claims 12-24, 48, 60, 62-63, 72, 84, and 96-97 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 61 has been amended to refer only to SEQ ID NO:63. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-11, 37-47, 49-59, 61, 65-71, 73-83, and 85-95 are pending; claims 1-11, 37-47, 49-59, 73-83, and 85-95 have been allowed.

Rejection of Claims 61-71 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 61-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not enabling a person skilled in the art to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with the claims. In particular, while the Examiner accepts that the specification is enabling for polynucleotides that hybridize to the polynucleotide sequences disclosed in the application (namely SEQ ID NO:63), the Examiner contends that the specification is not enabling for polynucleotides that hybridize to polynucleotides encoding the polypeptide sequences disclosed in the application.

In response, Applicants respectfully disagree, and assert that the previously pending claims are fully enabled by the specification in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. However, as shown in the listing of claims, claim 61 has been amended to refer only to polynucleotides that hybridize to the complement of SEQ ID NO:63 under the specified conditions. Since the Examiner has agreed that such subject matter is enabled, the rejection of claim 61 (and the claims depending from it) has been obviated, and the claims should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 61-71 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

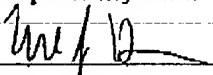
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is urged. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below if any further action by Applicants would expedite the allowance of this application.

Finally, if there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425. If a fee is required for an extension

of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 12, 2004

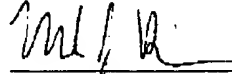

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

1. Fax Cover Sheet
2. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

I hereby certify that the above-listed correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the
United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 12, 2004.



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